

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-34 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 20 being the independent claims. Claim 1 is amended to more clearly define that which Applicants claim as their invention. Claim 5 is amended to more clearly recite the antecedent basis for the subject matter of the claim. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 9-11 and 30-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by WO 01/30858 to Sita, *et al.* ('858 application). *See* Office Action, Section 2.

Claims 1-3, 7-11 and 30-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,579,998 to Sita, *et al.* ('998 patent). *See* Office Action, Section 3.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Claim 1 has been amended and no longer recites alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl as possible groups for R⁴.

The '858 application is the corresponding International application of the '998 patent. Neither the '858 application nor the '998 patent teaches pre-catalysts in which

group R^4 can be SiX_3 , BR_3^6 or a solid support, as is claimed in claim 1 of the present invention. Therefore, neither the '858 application nor the '998 patent anticipates claim 1. And because claims 2-3, 7-11 and 30-34 all depend from claim 1, these documents do not anticipate these claims either.

Applicants submit claims 1-3, 7-11 and 30-34 are patentable over the '858 application and the '998 patent and request withdrawal of these rejections.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-6 and 12-19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. *See* Office Action, Section 4. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants believe amended claim 1 is patentable. And because claims 4-6 and 12-19 depend from claim 1, Applicants submit that these claims are also patentable. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above objection and allowance of claims 4-6 and 12-19.

Conclusion

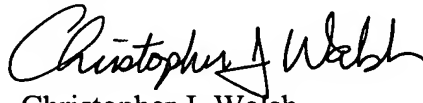
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Christopher J. Walsh
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 55,709

Date: September 9, 2005

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

441396_1.DOC